

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123
March 11, 2017

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Robledo, Chair, District 5; Nancy Owen, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Benjamin Dillingham III, Member-at-Large; Anthony Stewart, District 1; John Weaver, District 4.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ted Kagan (E), District 2; Laurie Martell (E), District 3.

OTHERS PRESENT

Wil Quintong, County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs Officers; Troy Wilson, Veteran Service Representative, County of San Diego

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Nancy Owen, Vice Chair

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

There was motion to approve the minutes, motion passed by everyone.

5. Chairman's Report

Wil Quintong, OMVA Director, updated members on reappointment assignments. Per Brian Andrade, Board Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Ben Dillingham and Laurie Martell will be in the March 14 docket at the Board of Supervisor's meeting moving forward for reappointment. Supervisor Diane Jacob, Chair, nominated Donnie Foster to fill the Member at Large vacancy previously held by William Rodriguez. Wil Quintong also spoke about Michael Robledo's, VAC Chair, appointment term expired and has not been reappointed. Michael Robledo stated he has contacted Supervisor's Bill Horn's office expressing his interest on

reappointment. Wil Quintong will follow up with Haley Petersen from Bill Horn's office and check on the status. The VAC members asked for clarification on the process of reappointments. Wil advised the nominating entities and the Board of Supervisors has the appointed authority. The nominations for appointment or re-appointment will ultimately come from the Supervisors. It is encouraged the members and prospective members to follow up with their respective Supervisor and express their interest on being reappointed. Ben Dillingham brought up the VAC member roster Seat 10, Commander Betancourt is no longer the head Commander and he is also retired. Anthony Stewart asked for clarification and suggested for that seat to be assigned as an Ex Officio for Navy Region South West. Wil Quintong will follow up with the Clerk of the Board and update the Council.

Legislative

Ben Dillingham met with Senator Tony Atkins and brought up the Unreimbursed Cost of Care issue at the discussed in prior meetings on the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

Nancy Owen spoke about the Senate Bill No. 543 passing, Home Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Fund (MWR). This bill authorizes the use of funds to provide the general welfare of the residents at the homes. The State will control these monies and will distribute to the Veterans Homes in accordance to the number of their residents. These funds include the unreimbursed cost of care. This will probably decrease the amount of MWR funds received by the Chula Vista Home due to this new policy of distribution and some of the participation programs for residents may be affected.

One VA

Nancy Owen asked Susie Dusso, OMVA Secretary, to forward the minutes from the last meeting. All VAC members should have a copy and they can review them.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Nancy Owen updates:

There are 305 residents in the CVVH.

The home received a 4-star rating.

Memory Care Unit is still on the fore front. Supervisor Greg Cox along with Assembly member Gonzalez-Fletcher in the Appropriation Committee and Senator Ben Hueso in the Veterans Committee at the State level are working on getting funding to get a study going on how much would cost to go ahead with the Memory Care Center project.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

No update

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Wil Quintong, OMVA Director, updates:

- Wil and 2 other Veteran Services Representatives attended a California Association of Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) training Conference in Sacramento February 25 to March 2 2017. The Veterans Services Officers went to the Capitol and visited each one of the legislators' offices.
- San Diego County is hosting the National Association of Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) Conference. It will be held at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in Mission Valley. A save the date invite will be sent to all VAC members to attend the President's reception for June along with a copy of the Agenda.
- Mr. Quintong will be attending the Calvet's Leadership Summit in April. He asked for input on issues that the VAC feels should be brought up to Calvet. You can email him directly or Hilda Dusso, OMVA Secretary, with your input. He is planning to bring up the Memory Care Unit. Nancy suggested the Unreimbursed Care Costs.
- Wil spoke about the Medical Cost Avoidance in the San Diego County.
- Will spoke about the Women's Veteran's forum dates being either on October 13 in partnership with SDSU. Wil want to include LGBT. The event should be free for women veterans. Wil is looking into facilitating daycare services. Anthony Stewart expressed his interest in helping. Wil will include him in the invite for the next planning meeting.

6. Community Reports

Anthony Stewart thanked everyone for their support for the Food4Warriors and Golf4Warriors tournament. Mr. Stewart spoke about the Combat to Comedy Program hosting at the Camp Pendleton. DOD approved laughter therapy. They were just in Vegas and he is trying to get something set up for Balboa in the near future. Anthony Stewart was asked to speak on a National Radio Interview for American Heroes Network in Florida and there was a lot of conversation about the San Diego County being the innovative force on veterans support leading the way for others.

Nancy wanted to remind everyone the Chula Vista Veterans Home Annual Golf Classic is May 4 at Eastlake. She also thanked Ben Dillingham for his donation.

Nancy spoke about the Chula Vista Council member, John McCann, attending the Foundation meeting and advising a new single family homes project is being done at

Otay Ranch. They are naming the streets after Chula Vista fallen heroes. A dedication ceremony will be done around Memorial Day. Virgil Whitehead also attended this meeting and talked about the Veterans Driver's License designation. Mr. Quintong and Troy Wilson explained the process on how to obtain the authorization form. It is done through the San Diego County OMVA offices. There is no cost from the County but DMV has a \$5.00 cost in addition to the fees to renew or a new driver's license fees. The County of San Diego OMVA will require a government picture ID and the original DD214 or a Certified True Copy of the DD214 in order to issue the signed approval form. The veteran is to take it to a DMV office for processing.

Anthony Stewart asked Wil if he can provide County statistics on veterans' homeless county, suicide prevention, unemployment and others. Wil will have Susie Dusso email that information to all VAC members.

7. Unfinished Business

Reappointments discussed on the Chairman's report.

8. New Business

None

9. Closing Remarks

Wil Quintong is working on a survey monkey to be sent out to VAC members on what other things that should be done with the Council.

10. Adjourned

10:30 AM